THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government bears 100% expenditure for running of residential schools under the Central Sector Scheme for Special Educational Development Programme for SC girls belonging to very low literacy levels for class I and under Scheme of Educational Cemplex in low literacy pockets for development of ST girls in Tribal Areas for classes I to 5. NGOs are also provided 90% grant-in-aid for running residential schools for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for classes 1 to 10. For construction of Ashram Schools for classes 1 to 12 in Tribal Sub-Plan Areas 50% Central assistance is provided to State Governments and Union Territories. For construction of hostels for students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes 50% Central assistance is released to the State Government under the following schemes:—

1. Scheduled Caste Boys' Hostels
2. Scheduled Caste Girls' Hostels
3. Scheduled Tribe Boys' Hostels
4. Scheduled Tribe Girls' Hostels

(c) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship for SC and ST students the rates of Scholarship were revised with effect from 01.10.1995. Government of India provides 100% Central Assistance to concerned State Governments and Union Territory Administrations over and above their committed liability. However, the requirement of committed liability has been dispensed with in case of North-Eastern States.

Working Women Hostels in Assam

1180. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of working women's hostels, including hostels for SC/ST girls in Assam, with assistance of Central Government during the last three years;

(b) the names and addresses of NGOs running the working women's hostels in Assam and the grant/assistance sanctioned to each of them during this period;

(c) whether Government propose to set up more such hostels for working women in Assam; and

(d) if so, the details thereof district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) No working women's hostel has been sanctioned in Assam during the last three years.

(c) and (d) Sanctioning of Working Women's Hostels to various Organisations is done on the basis of recommendations received from the State Governments/UT Administrations who make an assessment of its requirement in the proposed locations.

Scheme for Street Kids

1181. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced a scheme for the welfare of street kids;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether this scheme will be implemented by Government directly or through NGOs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has been operating, since 1992-93, a scheme called "Scheme for Welfare of Street Children". In order to make it broad based, it was reviewed and revised during 1998-99 and renamed as "An Integrated Programme for Street Children".

(b) The target group of the revised programme are essentially children without homes and family ties, i.e. street children and children specially vulnerable to abuse and exploitation such as children of sex workers and children of pavement dwellers. A wide